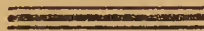


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CITY OF PLYMOUTH



INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941





CITY OF PLYMOUTH

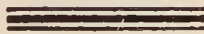


INTERIM REPORT

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The following Members of the City Council served on the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee during the year :—

Chairman : Alderman F. D. Baxter.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor (Mrs.) L. Brock.

Aldermen (Mrs.) C. H. Daymond, H. Porter, A. E. Traver-Stubbs.

Councillors H. Avery, A. H. Crimp, (Mrs.) J. Marshall, R. C. Ray,
S. Robins, F. E. Sparrow, A. E. Taylor.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor E. S. Leatherby.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. L. Strachan, B.A.

Aldermen J. L. Cornish, (Mrs.) C. H. Daymond, H. G. Mason, J.P.,
R. R. Oke and W. H. Weston.

Councillors F. J. Collier, L. F. Paul, H. J. Perry, J.P., S. W. R.
Pettett, H. G. Phillips, (Mrs.) J. Pook, S. C. Potter, W. T. Reeve,
G. P. Ross, H. S. Sangwell, R. A. Smith, L. W. Spear,
A. G. H. Thatcher.

Mrs. B. Bull, Mrs. C. R. Cload, Mrs. F. Johns, and Mrs. E. Lyne.

The Rev. J. H. McDonald, the Rev. R. J. W. Morris.

Messrs. W. J. S. Morrell, V. Pedlar, E. Prynn and Lieut. N. J. P.
Revington.

MEDICAL TREATMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor H. J. Perry, J.P.

Alderman (Mrs.) C. H. Daymond.

Councillors E. S. Leatherby, L. F. Paul, H. G. Phillips, (Mrs.) J.
Pook, W. T. Reeve and G. P. Ross.

Mrs. C. R. Cload and Mrs. E. Lyne.

Messrs. W. J. S. Morrell, V. Pedlar and Lieut. N. J. P. Revington.

TO THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1941. It is again an abbreviated report.

The population of the City, as estimated by the Registrar-General was 149,300 at the middle of the year as compared with 197,800 at mid 1940. The birth-rate was 16.43 as compared with 14.2 for England and Wales.

The movements of population during the year have made the accurate compilation of statistics very difficult and uncertain. The total number of births occurring in Plymouth was 1965 as compared with 3620 in 1940. In 1941, 50% of the births took place in maternity institutions.

The information given in the table on Maternal Mortality shows marked improvement of the rate since 1936 and there can be little doubt that the organisation of the domiciliary midwifery service under the Midwives Act 1936 must at least have contributed towards this improvement. In 1941, the Mortality Rate was 1.26 per 1,000 births compared with 2.23 for England and Wales.

The incidence of infectious diseases has been within normal rates. Tuberculosis, however, is causing concern. The experience is common to the country as a whole. There has been a check in the gradual decline in the incidence of the disease, and an important factor must be the strain of long working hours in the age group of 15 to 25 years.

The state of nutrition of the child population is of vital national importance and the reports of the school and maternity and child welfare medical officers do not disclose any war-time deterioration. A careful watch must be kept for early signs of rickets and scurvy. The Ministry of Food scheme of distribution through child welfare centres of vitamins in the form of cod liver oil and fruit juice is reasonably well used.

During the year the Education Authority instituted a system of mid-day meals for school children and it is very gratifying to record that by the end of 1941, approximately 95% of children were taking advantage of the Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

I am, My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. PEIRSON.

SEVEN TREES, LIPSON ROAD,
PLYMOUTH.

June, 1942.

Statistics and Social Condition of the Area

Area	...	...	...	(Land and inland water)	9,515 acres.
Rateable value of the City	...	...	...	...	£1,914,053
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£7,605

Unemployed persons in the City at 31.12.41 :—

<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
364	671	73	63	1,171

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population (1941) 149,300

<i>Live Births.</i>	<i>Total,</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Legitimate ...	2289	1179	1110	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate ...	164	82	82	of the estimated
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	civilian population
	2453	1261	1192	=16.43

<i>Stillbirths.</i>				
Legitimate ...	72	51	21	Still-birth rate per
Illegitimate ...	10	7	3	1,000 total (live and
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	still) births=32.34
	82	58	24	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Deaths under 1 year :—

Legitimate ...	160	98	62	Death-rate of infants
Illegitimate ...	18	10	8	under one year
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	=77.49
	178	108	70	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Total deaths 3564 1796 1768 Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population=23.87.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births (Total deaths 178) ...	77.49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	74.97
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	110.43

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate</i> <i>per 1,000 total</i> <i>(live and still)</i> <i>births.</i>
No. 29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	2	0.84
No. 30. Other maternal causes ...	4	1.68
		<hr/>
		2.52
		<hr/>

**Laboratory
Facilities.**

The following tables show the bacteriological and pathological work carried out for the City at the Prince of Wales's (Greenbank) Hospital, Plymouth.

Sputums for Tubercle	..	..	..	..	1292
Swabs for Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	5637
Rats for Plague	..	..	..	..	8
Bacteriological counts on Milks	..	..	..	..	547
„ „ Tins—Pork	..	..	..	..	3
„ „ Waters	..	..	..	..	330
Hairs for Ringworm	..	..	..	..	33
Bacteriological Examinations for Infectious diseases—					
Urines	..	..	..	..	104
Puerperal Swabs	..	..	..	..	213
Blood Counts	..	..	..	..	22
Blood Agglutinations	..	..	..	..	19
Animal Inoculations	..	..	..	..	4
C.S.F. Examinations	..	..	..	..	49
Sections (Mount Gold Hospital)	..	..	..	..	8
Ascheim Zondek Tests	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	86
Typhoid Inoculations	..	..	..	..	392
Total					8750
V.D. Examinations—					
Wasserman and Kahns	..	..	..	..	1250
Gonococcal	..	..	..	..	1201
Others	..	..	..	..	106
Vaccines	..	..	..	..	3
Total					2560
City Hospital—					
Microscopical Examinations on Tissues	..	..	..	..	127
Bacteriological Examinations	..	..	..	..	783
Blood Counts	..	..	..	..	751
Biochemical Examinations	..	..	..	..	882
Sputums for Tubercle	..	..	..	..	302
Ascheim Zondek Examinations	..	..	..	..	9
Agglutinations	..	..	..	..	5
Gonococci	..	..	..	..	20
Wassermanns	..	..	..	..	261
C.S.F. Examinations	..	..	..	..	20
Gonococcal Fixations	..	..	..	..	3
Total					3163

DEATHS—ALL CAUSES, 1941

CAUSE OF DEATH.	0-1 yrs.		1-5 yrs.		5-15 yrs.		15-45 yrs.		45-65 yrs.		65 upwards		Total		GRAND TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	5
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	1	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	11
5. Diphtheria	-	-	5	9	10	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	13	28
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	-	-	-	-	1	2	40	48	29	16	2	3	72	69	141
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	-	-	3	2	2	7	4	-	1	-	1	11	11	22
8. Syphilitic Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	1	5	2	20	3	23
9. Influenza	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	1	5	6	12	8	20
10. Measles	2	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	12
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	3
13. M. Cancer of buccal cavity, and 13. F. Oesophagus (males) and Uterus (females)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	15	10	15	16	34	50
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	18	10	21	16	41	28	69
15. Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	18	-	20	-	44	44
16. Cancer of all other sites	-	-	1	1	1	-	9	5	35	26	56	39	102	71	173
17. Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	4	8	12	13	19	32
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	22	40	70	96	94	139	233
19. Heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	11	80	65	236	264	322	341	663
20. Other diseases of circulatory system ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12	9	14	24	27	34	61
21. Bronchitis	10	1	2	1	-	-	4	2	27	12	87	97	130	113	243
22. Pneumonia	26	11	12	6	2	1	5	7	27	9	12	23	84	57	141
23. Other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	8	-	10	7	20	9	29
24. Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	14	3	2	5	21	8	29
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	9
26. Appendicitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	1	2	1	-	7	3	10
27. Other digestive diseases	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	5	18	10	3	20	26	36	62
28. Nephritis	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4	15	18	33	25	51	48	99
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	2
30. Other Maternal causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
31. Premature birth	20	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	18	38
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile disease	19	14	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	22	16	38
33. Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	8	2	3	-	14	4	18
34. Road traffic accidents	-	-	1	2	1	2	4	-	7	1	6	4	19	9	28
35. Other violent causes	15	12	24	24	45	49	176	187	161	109	70	102	491	483	974
36. All other causes	4	4	1	1	4	2	17	13	27	17	73	87	126	124	250
TOTAL	108	70	55	57	67	63	301	317	538	392	727	869	1796	1768	3564

The Director of the laboratory further reports that :—

“ The work of the laboratory was far from normal in 1941. After the blitzes, both this hospital and the City Hospital had many fewer beds occupied. Throughout the whole year, in fact, the normal number of civilian beds have not been occupied. Also for a similar reason many normal routine examinations had to be temporarily curtailed as the result of the pressure of sudden and and urgent work owing to enemy action. As a result, therefore, the number of examinations performed is considerably less than usual, and this diminution has affected all categories of work equally.

Fortunately the laboratory suffered little damage. Windows were blown in several times, but nothing more.

The absence of gas for some while made things difficult for a time, but fortunately many incubators, baths, etc., are electrically operated. A paraffin conversion for gas incubators had been provided against such an emergency and a makeshift get up using cylinders of Buta gas for such gas points as were essential. These cylinders had also been kept in reserve against such a purpose. The laboratory is affiliated to the E.M.S. pathological services under the Medical Research Council, and this unlimited assistance is available in rare and difficult investigations.”

POOR-LAW MEDICAL OUT-RELIEF WORK.

The following table shows the work done by the District Medical Officers :—

<i>District.</i>					<i>No. of visits to Patients' Homes.</i>	<i>Attendances at Surgery</i>
*1	(11 months only)	...	...		486	727
2	...	...	...	...	33	432
3	...	...	...	...	156	479
4	...	...	...	...	183	360
5	...	...	...	...	386	448
*6	(3 months only)	...	...		149	237
7	(Register destroyed)	...	...	
8	(Incomplete figure)	...	...		69	76
9	...	...	...	...	42	29
Totals ...					1504	2788

* Records lost through enemy action.

Maternity and Child Welfare

REPORT OF SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER.

Health Visiting. During June and July, 1941, three Health Visitors were seconded to work in the counties of Cornwall and Devon.

Summary of visits paid during the year :—

Births	...	...	...	...	...	2017
1st year visits	...	...	...	...	...	7184
1st visits, 1-5 years	...	...	...	...	...	368
Re-visits, 1-5 years	...	...	...	...	...	19576
1st ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	240
Re-ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	324
Visits <i>re</i> infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	271
Child life protection visits	...	...	...	...	...	415
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	1046
Visits to Rest Centres	...	...	...	...	...	296
Visits to First Aid Posts	...	...	...	...	...	45
						<hr/> 31782 <hr/>

The 271 visits in connection with infectious diseases are made up as follows :—

Ophthalmia neonatorum visits	...	...	...	...	5
Discharging eyes	„	...	...	...	17
Whooping-cough	„	...	...	...	44
Measles	„	...	...	...	169
Chicken-pox	„	...	...	...	4
Puerperal fever	„	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	„	...	...	...	2
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	23
Tubercular meningitis	...	...	...	...	2
Ant. poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/> 271 <hr/>

	Town Hall.	Beaumont Hut.	Devonport Park.	Wolseley Hall.	Peverell	St.Budeaux	Efford	Totals.
No. of sessions held
1st attendances
Re-attendances
Post-natal attendances
Miscellaneous
Total attendances
Average per session
Consultations
No. of transfers from 1940
Total No. of women attending during 1941

* The majority of these were women attending for advice other than ante-natal and post-natal because of disorganised services.

	Town Hall.	Beaumont Hut.	Devonport Park.	Wolseley Hall.	Peeverell.	Honic- knowle.	St. Budeaux	Efford.	Totals.
No. of sessions held ...	102	196	109	68	51	52	102	51	731
No. of babies entered on register ...	390 (135 1st)	616 (386 1st)	205 (168 1st)	266 (140 1st)	133 (86 1st)	82 (56 1st)	219 (143 1st)	109 (65 1st)	2020 (1179 1st)
No. of children entered on register ...	288 (53 1st)	501 (105 1st)	324 (74 1st)	166 (24 1st)	98 (18 1st)	96 (23 1st)	215 (46 1st)	110 (19 1st)	1822 (362 1st)
Total ...	678	1117	529	432	231	178	434	219	3842
No. remaining on regis- ter on 31st Dec., 1941									
Babies ...	113	277	152	88	35	56	123	65	909
Children ...	288	620	420	258	179	110	311	115	2301
Total ...	401	897	572	346	214	166	434	180	3210
No. of babies weighed and mothers advised	1260	3864	1222	1117	880	701	1639	869	11552
No. of children weighed and mothers advised	821	2149	801	592	614	450	914	507	6848
Total ...	2081	6013	2023	1709	1494	1151	2553	1376	18400
Doctors' consultations	1274	2679	1068	674	436	451	842	541	7965
Average attendances per session ...	20	31	19	25	29.4	22	25	27	25
Dressings done ...	74	558	124	30	41	20	176	73	1096
Sewing classes held ...	11	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	19
Total attendances ...	45	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	53
Attendances at Clinics by Health Visitors ...									2259

Supervision of Midwives	Number notifying their intention to practise	58
	Ceased practise during the year 1	
	Left district after training 1	
		— 2
		—
	On Register at end of year	56
		==
	Municipal (including Asst. Supervisor of Midwives)	15
	In private practice	6
	T.T.N.A.	15
	Alexandra Maternity Home	17
	City Hospital	2
	Abbotsfield	1
		—
		56
		==

No of cases attended by private midwives :—

Two midwives had twenty-three cases, and three under ten cases.

Approximately 80 per cent. of the notified births (district and institutional) were conducted by midwives only.

District cases attended by midwife	746
District cases attended by midwife acting as a maternity nurse	185
*Institutional cases attended by midwife	786
*Institutional cases attended by midwife acting as a maternity nurse	196
	—
	1913
	==

*Includes maternity and nursing homes, and hospitals.

Medical help was sought by midwives in 442 cases, approximately 58 calls being for the child.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service The number of domiciliary births taking place in the City were considerably fewer than normal as a result of evacuation following enemy action.

In May two midwives were seconded to Cornwall and later on the staff was further reduced by three, leaving at the end of the year eight on the staff. The municipal midwives attended the following number of cases :—

As midwives	...	...	...	...	470	
As maternity nurses	...	...	...	...	87	
					<hr/>	557

Relief midwives for the department attended:—

As midwives	...	...	...	...	4	
As maternity nurses	...	...	...	...	2	
					<hr/>	6
						<hr/>
						563

No. of cases booked	...	...	...	...	749
No. of ante-natal visits paid by midwives	...				3478
No. of ante-natal clinic visits paid by midwives	...				186
No. of patients transferred to the City Hospital	...				18
No. of patients transferred to the Three Towns Maternity Home in lieu of the City Hospital	...				1
No. of miscarriages	...	...	...	...	3
No. of emergency miscarriages	...	...	...	...	1
No. of emergency deliveries	...	...	...	...	17

In addition to the above:—

The Three Towns Nursing Association attended	284	district cases.
The Alexandra Nurses	28	" "
Private Midwives	56	" "

The fees collected by municipal midwives during 1941 amounted to £927 16s. 0d., leaving £319 15s. 6d. to be collected by the City Treasurer.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

Maternity Homes.

On Register, 1st January, 1941	...	...	...	3
Closed during the year	...	...	...	2
On Register at end of year	...	...	...	1

Nursing Homes.

On Register, 1st January, 1941	...	...	...	6
Closed during the year	...	...	...	2
On Register at end of year	...	...	...	4

There were no applications for exemption from registration.

Routine visits of inspection are paid by the Senior Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer to all registered nursing homes. No special visits were required.

Maternal Mortality

Seven women died in Plymouth during 1941 from causes attributable to pregnancy and childbirth, and two from causes associated with pregnancy. There were two outward transfers in the first group and one in the second. There were no inward transfers. There were, therefore, five deaths belonging to Plymouth giving a maternal mortality rate of 2.10 per 1,000 allocated births (puerperal sepsis, 0; other causes, 2.10).

TOTAL PUERPERAL MORTALITY.

Year	ENGLAND AND WALES		PLYMOUTH	
	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total births	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total births
1928	4.42	4.25	6.04	—
1929	4.33	4.16	4.98	—
1930	4.40	4.22	6.43	—
1931	4.11	3.94	—	2.81
1932	4.21	4.04	—	5.58
1933	4.51	4.32	—	5.95
1934	4.60	4.42	—	4.2
1935	4.10	3.93	—	5.01
1936	3.81	3.65	—	2.82
1937	3.23	3.11	—	5.3
1938	3.08	2.97	—	2.03
1939	2.93	2.82	—	3.07
1940	—	2.16	—	3.8
		(ex. abortions)		3.2
1941	—	*2.23	—	°1.26
		(ex. abortions)		(ex. abortions)

• Puerperal sepsis 0.48
Other causes 1.75

° Puerperal sepsis Nil.
Other causes 1.26

Residential Nurseries.

Plymouth was declared an Evacuation Area in May, 1941, and the first evacuation of unaccompanied children under 5 to Residential Nurseries took place on 5th and 6th of June when 90 children were sent to two Anglo-American Nurseries, Doverhay and Tapley Park. Other Nurseries were opened and by the end of the year 452 children had been so evacuated. By that time 12 nurseries had been opened.

Private Billets.

Between March and the end of September, 1,775 children under 5 left the City with their mothers, for other parts of the country.

Evacuation of Expectant Mothers.

The first evacuation of Expectant Mothers took place on the 1st April. These women were sent to several Emergency Maternity Homes in nearby counties as arranged by the Ministry of Health. The Flete Emergency Maternity Home opened in August. The total number of women evacuated for confinement was 311, 10 of whom returned before confinement.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

In addition to the duties normally undertaken, Sanitary Inspectors were called upon to perform certain Civil Defence duties which included the billeting or re-housing of homeless persons, examination of foodstuffs damaged by enemy action, ascertaining state of and issuing information on the treatment of water supply, the day and night inspection of air raid shelters and rest centres, and the inspection of rooms occupied by firewatchers.

The dangers associated with damage to sewers and water mains, the crowding together of people in shelters and in temporary accommodation in rest centres, the common use of beds and bedding by many firewatchers were avoided.

Brief commentaries on the action taken are contained under headings below :—

Water Supply. (I am indebted to the City Water Engineer, Mr. A. Atkinson, for some of the information contained in this report).

Throughout the year weekly samples have been taken for bacteriological examination at the Prince of Wales's Laboratory, from the districts supplied by the six service reservoirs.

Of the 329 samples submitted, 146 were reported to contain B. Coli in 100 ml., but Fæcal B. Coli were found in only 24 samples ; the remaining 183 samples were reported to be free from B. Coli in 100 ml.

In addition 81 samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist at Exeter ; 18 of these samples were reported as containing Coli ærogenes organisms in 100 ml. ; of these 18 samples, 3 were reported as being unsatisfactory, 5 as doubtful, and 10 as satisfactory bacteriologically.

Eight samples of water were also submitted for chemical examination.

During the year, there were two chief anxieties connected with the City's water supply, both of which were successfully overcome.

Firstly, the problem of the sufficiency of the supply arising from the deficiency of rainfall throughout the year combined with the rise in daily consumption due to general war conditions and more especially to the effects of the intense air raids.

Secondly, the problem of maintaining a pure supply under difficult conditions following the raids which occurred during the period January to May, when many water mains of both large and small diameter were fractured.

Dangerous conditions are likely to arise during and immediately after air raids, particularly in a hilly district such as Plymouth, when a bomb crater on elevated ground may contain a fractured water main and a broken sewer or drain. In such circumstances, the earliest possible steps must be taken to prevent the contaminated water being fed from the bomb crater into the water main, from which it may be drawn off by unsuspecting consumers.

Following the raids there was close co-operation between the City Water Department and the Health Department with a view to preventing such an occurrence. The Water Department took immediate steps to shut off the main and drain out the contaminated water and the public were warned of the danger and advised to boil for five minutes before use all water used for domestic purposes.

In Plymouth it was proved that in many cases fractured mains had been contaminated by sewage, but it is gratifying to record that the steps taken prevented the outbreak of any epidemic of water-borne diseases.

Early arrangements were made for the public and members of the Civil Defence Organisation to be inoculated free of cost against typhoid, but only about 400 persons availed themselves of the opportunity.

**Drainage and
Sewerage**

(I am indebted to the City Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. J. Paton Watson, for some of the information on drainage and sewerage).

Throughout the year only essential maintenance work was carried out in connection with sewers and drains.

Following the heavy raids, the number of incidents involving damage to sewers was about 230. The majority of the incidents affected sewers of 6, 9 and 12 inch diameter but a number of main trunk sewers were also damaged.

The large scale evacuation from damaged areas and the damage to house property reduced the flow of sewage and thereby eased the situation considerably. The number of incidents which caused inconvenience or nuisance to the public before being dealt with was only a small proportion of the total.

Inspections of bomb damaged private property were carried out and in co-operation with the War Damage Department, arrangements were made for the immediate repair of fractured drains and the sealing of many drains which had become disused and which were likely to cause a nuisance.

Air Raid Shelters

Following the report of the Lord Horder Committee, all shelters in the City were inspected with a view to bringing them up to the standard described in the memoranda issued by the Ministry of Health. All matters relating to sanitation, ventilation, heating, lighting, bunking, etc., were reported upon and some improvements effected.

During and after the heavy raids, air raid shelters in the City were regularly occupied during night times by comparatively large numbers of people, and were, therefore sprayed frequently with a 1 per cent solution of sodium hypochlorite. Bunks were sprayed with Zaldecide or solution "B," after which a deodorising agent was sprayed throughout the shelter.

This method of disinfection had been continued at regular weekly intervals, and night inspections of shelters carried out with a view to dealing with offensively unclean persons, and, where possible, isolating sick persons.

Shelterers usually co-operate, e.g., persons with severe colds have willingly occupied private shelters, scabies cases willingly accepted treatment.

Inspection of Rooms occupied by Firewatchers

When compulsory firewatching was put into operation, it was necessary to give attention to the accomodation and facilities provided for firewatchers. There is, of course, considerable risk of the spread of infection or infestation by the use of the same bedding by different persons on eight successive nights. Facilities for disinfection of bedding are provided free of charge and premises inspected as to cleanliness, ventilation, etc. Some publicity has been given to the desirability for firewatchers to provide themselves with sheets and pillow cases which are easily washed and reduce the risk of infection and infestation.

Owners and occupiers of premises which are firewatched can assist by maintaining thorough cleanliness, airing beds and bedding, removing black-out fittings and ventilating the rooms or room used by the firewatchers.

The Fire Prevention Officer is co-operating in this work which is continuing and it is hoped that some night visits to firewatchers' premises might avoid the conditions which could be created by a few undesirables.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1,161
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2,240
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	11
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	3
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	541

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	456
--	--	---	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners ...	2
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	24
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners ...	25
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | 8 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit | ... | ... | Nil |

Overcrowding . It has not been possible to include figures relating to overcrowded houses in the City owing to large scale evacuation and the affect of damage to house property due to enemy action.

Factories . Details of the sanitary inspection of factories under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the following tables :—

1. Inspections :—

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted.</i>
Factories with mechanical power	226	29	—
Factories without mechanical power	95	12	—
Other Premises (Outworkers) ...	282	1	—

2. Defects found:

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of Defects.</i>			<i>No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.</i>
	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</i>	
Want of cleanliness	23	12	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	1*	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	1*	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {insufficient	1	1	—	—
Other offences {unsuitable or defective	—	2*	—	—
Other offences {not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	5	4	—	—

* Discovered during the previous year.

Cremation The number of cremations during the year 1941 was 448. Of this number 66 were in respect of residents of the City of Plymouth. During this period the Crematorium was closed for nine weeks.

Up to the end of 1941 a total of 2,170 cremations were carried out since the Crematorium opened in 1934.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples Routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination proceeded throughout the year, when a total of 431 samples were examined, of which 413 were found to be satisfactory and 18 in an unsatisfactory state of cleanliness. Two of these unsatisfactory samples were ungraded milk.

The following tables show the number and results of samples submitted to :—

- (1) Methylene Blue Test.
- (2) Bacteriological Count and B. Coli Test.
- (3) Phosphatase Test.

(1) Methylene Blue Test.

<i>Description of Milk.</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk	242	226	16
Raw Milk 	11	9	2
Totals ...	253	235	18

(2) Bacteriological Count and B. Coli Test :—

<i>Description of Milk.</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Pasteurised Milk ...	143	143	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ...	20	20	—
Tuberculin Tested (Certified) ...	7	7	—
Sterilised Milk ...	7	7	—
Raw Milk ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	178	178	—

(3) Phosphatase Test :—

<i>Description of Milk.</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Pasteurised Milk ...	66	57	9
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ...	14	14	—
Totals ...	80	71	9

Eight samples of milk were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and were all returned as negative.

One sample of Ice Cream was examined, the result being satisfactory, B. Coli being absent in 1/100 ml. and the total count being 2000 Bacteria per ml.

One empty milk bottle taken after passing through a washing machine was examined, the result being satisfactory, B. Coli being absent in 1/100 ml. and no bacteria present.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six private slaughterhouses in use in the City, and these were visited on 6,732 occasions during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned The total number of carcasses inspected at the Meat Market and in the private slaughterhouses during the year was 35,015, which was made up as follows :—

Bovines	...	...	...	...	10,481
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	18,267
Calves	...	...	...	...	3,028
Pigs	...	...	...	...	3,239

The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 241 tons, 5cwts. 2qrs.

This amount was made up as follows :—

	<i>Bovines excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed	5592	4889	3028	18267	3239
Number inspected	14224		4585	101298	12923
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	323		12	241	50
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1960		34	1638	223
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	3.52%	30.49%	1.12%	8.8%	6.88%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	509		1	—	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1051		—	—	1302
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.80%	18.66%	—	—	40.19%

SAMPLES FOUND ADULTERATED.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Aspirin tablets	Inaccurate dose	Verbal caution.
do.	Defective purity	do.
Camphorated oil	17% excess of camphor ...	do.
do.	7% deficient in camphor.	do.
Eggstead ...	Misleading label	Product withdrawn from sale
Egg substitute powder ...	Misleading label.	
Lemo	Absence of Ascorbic Acid	Product withdrawn from sale
Lemonstead ...	do.	do.
Raw Milk ...	30% added water	Fined £3 plus 2/6 special Costs.
do. ...	10% do.	Fined £1.
do. ...	8% do.	Letter of caution.
do. ...	8% do.	do.
do. ...	5% do.	do.
do. ...	4% do.	do.
do. ...	4% added water and further 9% deficient in fat	do.
do. ...	2% added water and further 4% deficient in fat	do.
do. ...	1% added water.	No action taken.
do. ...	30% deficient in fat. ...	No action taken owing to destruction of records by enemy action.
do. ...	10% deficient in fat. ...	Letter of caution.
do. ...	6% do.	do.
do. ...	6% do.	do.
do. ...	5% do.	do.
do. ...	4% do.	do.
do. ...	2% do.	do.
do. ...	1% do.	do.
Pasteurised Milk	4% added water.	No action taken—informal sample.
Sucrex ...	Misleading label.	No action.
Sweetened cust'd p'wdr (6 samples)	Sweetened with saccharin only. No sugar present	Product withdrawn from sale.
Whiskey ...	14% added water	Informal samples—premises later destroyed by enemy action.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act

Eight samples were taken under this Act. Seven samples were returned as genuine. One sample of Nitrate of Soda was found to contain an excess of 0.5 per cent. of Nitrogen and a letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

Infectious Diseases

During the year 1941, the following numbers of cases of infectious diseases were notified :—

				<i>Civilian</i> <i>Cases.</i>	<i>Service</i> <i>Cases.</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	141	10
Diphtheria	...	...	...	348	4
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	112	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	30	—
Cerebo-spinal Fever	...	...	...	44	15
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	4	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	5	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	35	2
Summer Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	251	—
Measles	...	...	...	711	4
Suspected Food Poisoning (Unconfirmed)	...	...	...	8	—
			Totals	1695	39

General Incidence.

In general there was no abnormal incidence of any infectious disease, but it is still to be regretted that

Diphtheria and Immunisation.

in spite of the facilities available and publicity given to Diphtheria Immunisation, an appreciable minority of parents neglect to have their children protected. The incidence and fatality rate of Diphtheria continues high in these unimmunised children.

Enteric Fever.

The low incidence of Enteric Fever is an indication of the efficiency of the sanitary precautions taken after the damage by enemy action to water mains and sewers.

Scabies.

The Scabies Order, 1941, which came into operation in October, 1941, gives Local Authorities power to require verminous persons or persons suffering from Scabies to be treated. Four existing Clinics have been modified to treat such persons.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The total number of children immunised during the year shows a great decrease on the figure for 1940. This is accounted for, to a great extent, by the decrease of the child population in the City, due to evacuation, but the figure cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

At the commencement of the year it was estimated that 30 per cent. of children under five years old and 50 per cent. of children of school age had been immunised and hopes were raised of obtaining in the near future an immune population with the disappearance of Diphtheria as a disease of major importance.

The additional total of 2,477 children immunised during the year does not, however, materially increase the percentage of immune children when births are allowed for. The incidence of Diphtheria remains as in previous non-epidemic years, but the incidence now falls almost entirely on those children who have not been immunised. It is, therefore, a matter of urgency that the remainder of the child population should be protected.

Facilities for immunisation have not been restricted, and publicity by press advertisements, posters, circulars and personal contact continues.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Total number of children immunised since 1927	...	24,752
Estimated number of immunised children under five years old at January 1st, 1941	... ..	3,858
Estimated population under five years old at January 1st, 1941	... ..	12,645
Estimated number of immunised children between five and fifteen years old at January 1st, 1941	...	14,085
Estimated population between five and fifteen years old at January 1st, 1941	... ..	26,947
Approximate percentage of child population immunised :—		
(1) Under five years old	... ..	30%
(2) Between the ages of five and fifteen years	...	52%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1941 — AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Total 1941.		Cases notified up to week ended 15.3.42 not classified in age groups.		Cases notified from 22.3.41 to 27.12.41 classified in age groups.		1st Quarter (11 weeks).		2nd Quarter from week ended 22.3.41 to 28.6.41		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		0-1 year.	1-2 years.	2-3 years.	3-4 years.	4-5 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.	15-20 years.	20-35 years.	35-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-up. Since 22.3.41 Cases admitted to hospital.
	* C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.	C.	S.												
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	141	10	78	8	63	2	78	8	29	1	15	—	19	1	3	4	7	12	13	62	26	18	14	3	2	— 26
Diphtheria ...	348	4	184	1	164	3	184	1	76	1	44	1	44	1	1	2	4	4	4	30	4	2	7	4	— 1	164
Enteric Fever ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	112	3	68	2	44	1	68	2	28	1	4	—	12	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	12	3 15
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	30	—	20	—	10	—	20	—	2	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	—	5
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	44	15	30	6	14	9	30	6	9	9	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	— 14
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	3	1	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	5	—	4	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	35	2	—	—	35	2	—	—	14	1	7	—	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	3	17	7 5
Summer Diarrhoea ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	251	—	67	—	184	—	67	—	116	—	40	—	28	—	18	23	30	21	23	58	1	2	4	1	2	1
Measles ...	711	4	500	2	211	2	500	2	195	—	13	1	3	1	14	27	32	32	30	57	11	3	4	1	—	—
Suspected Food Poisoning (Unconfirmed) ...	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	3	—
Totals ...	1695	39	952	20	743	19	952	20	477	13	133	2	133	4	39	57	73	70	72	211	48	34	58	29	39	13 232

Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)—see separate table.

* C.—Civilian cases.

S.—Service cases.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Completed course of injections</i>	
	<i>At M. & C. Welfare Centres.</i>	<i>At Schools</i>
1927	330	—
1928	296	—
1929	390	—
1930	444	—
1931	1282	—
1932	1107	—
1933	972	—
1934	335	363
1935	874	1244
1936	662	1104
1937	500	1035
1938	430	707
1939	568	615
1940	2812	6765
1941	1233	1244
Totals	12235	13077
Total immunised children		25312

VACCINATIONS.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Primary vaccinations</i>	<i>Percentage of Children vaccinated</i>	<i>Re- vaccinations</i>
1934	3203	1371	42.8	9
1935	3065	1270	41.4	18
1936	3061	1348	44.0	24
1937	3325	1262	37.9	12
1938 ...	3617	1396	38.6	10
1939	3792	1406	37.0	6
1940	3620	1508	41.67	4
1941	2020	511	25.30	3

The City Isolation Hospital

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

General Remarks.

This Hospital, in common with several others, suffered considerable disorganisation as a result of enemy air attacks during the heavy raids on Plymouth in the spring of the year.

The kitchen block was completely demolished by a direct hit, and the roof of the administrative block suffered much damage through falling debris. Ward 1 was damaged by an unexploded parachute flare which fell through the roof, and there was a serious fire in the roof space of Ward 4. Another bomb fell on the south side of this Ward, wrecking one of the main drains and causing much inconvenience by flooding of the boiler houses.

In addition there were several minor fires, and the destruction of windows, window frames, and black-out by blast, rendered Wards 1, 2, 3, and half of Ward 4 uninhabitable. Apart from broken glass, the cubicle blocks escaped damage, and after rapid repairs had been completed, were soon in full occupation, together with one half of Ward 4.

These incidents necessitated removal of patients to other safer Wards during the raids, and I have to thank the Nursing, Male Staff and many voluntary helpers for the work they accomplished, not only in dealing with fires, but in the heavy work of carrying patients in the darkness, and salving essential equipment which might otherwise have been destroyed. The conduct of both patients and staff during this difficult period was admirable. Fortunately there were no casualties, apart from minor injuries, either to patients or staff.

The Naval authorities generously supplied us with cooks and field kitchens until a temporary kitchen had been erected, so that there was no dislocation in the regular supply of hot meals.

The loss of bed accommodation following these raids rendered dispersal of a number of patients necessary. All those fit to travel were sent home by Corporation bus; some thirty cases of convalescent Diphtheria were transferred, together with the necessary Nursing Staff, to the Emergency Isolation Hospital at Truro, and the rest were sent to Lee Mill Hospital, which was rapidly opened, equipped and staffed by this Institution. Only a few of the more serious cases were left in the cubicle blocks.

Arrangements were made with the Kingsbridge R.D.C. to place beds at Modbury Hospital at our disposal, and during the year 20 cases were treated there, daily visits being made to these patients by a Medical Officer from this Hospital. Plympton R.D.C. allowed their Small-pox Hospital at Lee Mill to be used as a Nurses' Home and these arrangements have worked smoothly.

The general policy during the year has been to keep the Hospital population as low as possible at Swilly, transferring cases either to Lee Mill or Modbury as soon as they were well enough to travel.

Fortunately there was no serious epidemic during the year, and despite difficulties it has been possible to admit all cases requiring hospital treatment, not only from the City, but from surroundings districts as well.

Plans are already being made for further extensions at Lee Mill Hospital, so that all types of cases may be treated there should the necessity arise.

The shortage of Nursing Staff and more especially of probationers, to which I have drawn attention in previous reports, has been less noticeable than in past years, and recruitment has, on the whole, been reasonably satisfactory.

Miss C. Howard, S.R.N., R.F.N., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., late Sister Tutor, King George V Hospital, Ilford, was appointed Matron on 21.5.41 on retirement of Miss Lipscombe.

During the year 30 visits were made to the homes of patients at the request of Medical Practitioners in the district and 4517 pathological specimens were sent for examination at the central laboratory as follows :—

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	3954
Fæces	...	...	...	...	...	26
Urines	...	...	...	...	...	35
Slides	...	...	...	...	...	75
Bloods	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cerebro Spinal Fluids				...	...	25
Other Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	3

**Scarlet
Fever**

The routine admission to hospital of all cases of Scarlet Fever has ceased for the time being on account of damage to wards. Cases are now admitted only when the practitioner in charge considers that home conditions are poor, or that the case is severe enough to require hospital treatment. The disease continued to be mild.

A total of 75 cases were admitted of which 60 were City and 15 were outside cases, a decrease of 168 on the previous year.

The average stay in hospital was 31.5 days.

OUTSIDE CITY CASES.

The following cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted from the undermentioned districts. :—

	<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Amended Diagnosis.</i>
Plympton	3	
Kingsbridge R.D.C. ...	3	
St. Germans R.D.C. ...	1	
Kingsbridge U.D.C. ...	8	Naso Pharyngeal Diphtheria, 1.
Total ...	<u>15</u>	

The total number of cases admitted as Scarlet Fever and treated in the hospital were :—

Plymouth residents ...	60
Outside City cases ...	15
Total ...	<u>75</u>

Diphtheria.

The number of cases admitted was barely a third of the previous year's total, but the severity of the disease remained the same; 32 deaths occurred, the death rate being still over 7 per cent.

A total of 431 cases were admitted of which 348 were City cases and 83 were outside cases.

83 outside City cases were treated as under :—

	<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Amended Diagnosis.</i>
Kingsbridge R.D.C. ...	7	
St. Germans R.D.C. ...	15	
Plympton	42	1 Vincents Angina. 1 K.L.B. Rhinorrhoea. 1 Tonsillectomy Wound.
Tavistock R.D.C. ...	3	
Tavistock U.D.C. ...	6	
Saltash U.D.C. ...	2	
Totnes	1	
Torpoint U.D.C. ...	8	
<hr/> Total		84 <hr/>

In addition 1 case was found to be suffering from Scarlet Fever, and one from Vincents Angina as well as Diphtheria.

DISPROVED DIAGNOSIS.

After observation the Diagnosis was altered in the following Plymouth Cases :—

Tonsillitis	22
Vincents Angina	8
Virulent Carrier	2
Bacteriological D	4
Scarlet Fever	2
Catarrhal Laryngitis	2
Glandular Fever	2
Rhinitis	1
Pharyngitis, Laryngitis, Gingivitis	1

One case was found to be suffering from Scabies, 4 from Vincents Angina, 11 from Scarlet Fever as well as Diphtheria.

Total number of City cases 348.

LARYNGEAL DIPHTHERIA.

Nineteen cases were notified. Of these 12 were proved to be Laryngeal Diphtheria, 4 Laryngeal Diphtheria and Measles, and the rest diagnosed as Diphtheria. Fifteen cases required Tracheotomy, 12 cases made complete recovery, and 3 died.

Other Diseases. During the year 84 Plymouth cases and 16 outside cases were treated as shown in the following tables :—

Plymouth cases notified, admitted and treated as follows :—

<i>Admitted as.</i>		<i>Amended Diagnosis</i>	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	37	Broncho Pneumonia, 1; Rubella, 1; Meningococcal Meningitis, 25; T.B. Meningitis, 3; Erythema, 1; Spontaneous Pneumothorax, 1.	
Leg Injury	...	1	
Measles	...	12	
Tonsillitis	...	5	Virulent Carrier, 1; Laryngitis, 1.
Anterior Poliomyelitis		1	
Typhoid Fever	...	2	
Scabies	...	1	
Varicella	...	2	
Measles and Broncho			
Pneumonia	...	3	
Enteritis	...	1	
Erysipelas	...	7	
Paratyphoid B	...	1	
Influenza	...	1	
Whooping Cough and			
Broncho Pneumonia	10	Whooping Cough and Congenital Bronchiectasis, 1; Pertussis and Burns, 1; Pertussis and Convulsions 1.	

OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT.

<i>Admitted as</i>		<i>Amended Diagnosis.</i>	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	6	Erythema, 1
Typhoid Fever	...	4	Catarrhal Jaundice, 1
			Enteritis, 1
			Enteric Fever, 1
			Paratyphoid B, 1
Measles	...	1	Dermatitis, 1
Dysentery	...	1	Enteritis, 1
Infantile Paralysis	...	1	Chorea, 1
Erysipelas	...	3	

DEATHS FROM OTHER DISEASES :—

Plymouth cases	...	...	...	...	9
Outside cases	...	...	...	...	1
Total					10

Venereal Diseases

REPORT BY THE V.D. MEDICAL OFFICER.

During the year, 564 New Cases attended the Clinic for advice and treatment, an increase of 58 compared with the previous year. There were 8,172 attendances by individual patients, 1,391 fewer than in 1940.

The following table gives a ready method of comparison over the last three years:—

Year	Syphilis				Chancroid				Gonorrhoea				Non-Venereal Disease				Totals			
	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall	Totals	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall	Totals	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall	Totals	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall	Totals	Plymouth	Devon	Cornwall	Totals
1939	98	12	12	122	7	-	2	9	214	20	28	262	215	23	26	264	534	55	68	657
1940	95	1	4	100	4	-	1	5	156	15	12	183	188	12	18	218	443	28	35	506
1941	118	10	8	136	4	-	1	5	193	17	11	221	173	16	13	202	488	43	33	564

The continuity of treatment in many patients was interrupted by the heavy raids on the Town in the spring of the year, owing to the evacuation of patients to safer areas during this period. This probably accounts for the fall in attendances by individual patients, referred to above, although the number of New Cases was greater. Most of these patients have now returned, and the number of requests for Transfer Cards show that many of the others are seeking treatment elsewhere.

The Services have requested treatment for a number of their personnel and 79 such cases were dealt with during the year.

Syphilis Thirty Cases of infectious Syphilis reported for treatment. This is exactly double the number which received attention during the previous year. From enquiries made, this would seem general throughout the country, and although the number appears large, yet it is not surprising under War conditions.

An improved course of treatment has been instituted with a view to rendering these patients non-infectious as soon as possible and most of them were admitted until free from infection.

Chancroid Five cases were treated.

Gonorrhoea During the year 221 cases presented themselves for diagnosis and treatment. The defaulter rate was 20 per cent., and this is not surprising under present conditions when large numbers of the populations are obliged to move at short notice. Many of the defaulters were in fact free from infection, perhaps only failing to report for their last surveillance test.

Non-Venereal. Of the 564 New Cases, who attended for the first time, 202 or 38 per cent., were found after investigation not to be suffering from V.D.

In-Patients.—During the year 30 cases were admitted for treatment.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were treated in the O.P. Department of this Clinic, and 5 cases, 4 with mothers, were admitted and treated at the Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth. Three cases were also treated in the O.P. Department of the latter Hospital, making a total of 10 cases. The results were good in all cases, and no impairment of vision resulted.

Tuberculosis

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

Notifications. During the year 1941, 236 cases were notified as suffering from Tuberculosis. This number was composed of 194 Pulmonary cases (116 males and 78 females) and 42 Non-Pulmonary cases (19 males and 23 females).

The numbers on the Notification Register at the end of the year were as follows :—

<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Total cases.</i>
<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
434	355	789	146	170	316	1105

The details of these notifications during the year are shown as follows :—

<i>Age Groups.</i>			<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>		<i>Totals.</i>
			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
0-1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	—	1	5	2	8
5-10	...	...	1	1	2	6	10
10-15	...	...	1	1	—	4	6
15-20	...	...	14	19	2	3	38
20-25	...	...	21	14	4	3	42
25-35	...	...	32	19	4	5	60
35-45	...	...	23	12	2	—	37
45-55	...	...	18	6	—	—	24
55-65	...	...	6	1	—	1	8
65 and upwards			—	4	—	—	4
Totals	...		116	78	19	24	237

The following table shews the number of Notifications of Tuberculosis since the year 1932 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1932 ...	273	70	343
1933 ...	253	58	311
1934 ...	246	63	309
1935 ...	217	54	271
1936 ...	204	51	255
1937 ...	225	52	277
1938 ...	209	42	251
1939 ...	194	51	245
1940 ...	192	62	254
1941 ...	194	42	236

There were 4 Posthumous Notifications during the year 1941, and this figure consisted of 3 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary cases.

Deaths. There were 163 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year 1941. This figure shews a reduction of 25 on the previous year's deaths.

At the end of the year 1941 the following number of patients were on the "live" Dispensary Register.

	<i>Adults.</i>		<i>Children.</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	
<i>Pulmonary</i> ...	406	242	22	22	692
<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	43	41	37	40	161
<i>Totals</i> ...	449	283	59	62	853
	732		121		

Dispensary. There were 846 New Cases sent to the Dispensary by Medical Practitioners during the year. This figure is 201 fewer than for the year 1940.

The following table shews the number of cases referred to the Tuberculosis Officer each year since 1932, and the number of contacts who have been examined for the same period, together with the result of the clinical examination.

New Cases.					Contacts.			
Year.	Definitely Tuberc.	Non-Tuberc.	Diagnosis not completed	Total examined	Definitely Tuberc.	Non-Tuberc.	Diagnosis not completed	Total examined
1932	288	402	80	770	10	792	42	844
1933	276	521	63	860	6	654	53	713
1934	256	561	96	913	17	759	86	862
1935	243	574	77	894	10	749	19	778
1936	231	559	91	881	8	386	33	427
1937	266	649	78	993	8	411	17	436
1938	232	707	104	1043	7	362	41	410
1939	297	721	108	1126	4	376	13	393
1940	247	677	123	1047	10	377	31	508
1941	208	585	53	846	5	163	4	172

Attendances. The number of attendances of patients at the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year, excluding those who attended for X-ray examination, and which are shewn elsewhere, totalled 5,709.

Since 1932 the attendances have been as follows :—

1932	...	...	...	...	13,246
1933	...	...	...	...	12,635
1934	...	...	...	...	12,945
1935	...	...	...	...	12,408
1936	...	...	...	...	10,212
1937	...	...	...	...	10,665
1938	...	...	...	...	9,638
1939	...	...	...	...	9,233
1940	...	...	...	...	8,599
1941	...	...	...	...	5,709

As shown above, the figures for the previous year were 8,599. It must be borne in mind that 1941 was a very exceptional year owing to the very heavy air attacks which took place in Plymouth during March and April. This caused a marked decline in attendances at the Dispensary, especially during the first six months of the year.

There was also a marked drop in the attendance of school children, largely due to the children having been evacuated. It is of interest to note that the attendances at the evening clinic have been well maintained.

Owing to damage at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, attendances had to be curtailed for a period.

Domiciliary Visiting. *Tuberculosis Officer.* The Tuberculosis Officer paid 295 visits to patients at their homes during the year.

Nurses and Health Visitors. The Nurses and Health Visitors paid 2,801 visits to patients during the year.

Consultations. The following consultations were held by the Tuberculosis Officer during the year :—

Personal	...	...	...	...	76
Other than personal (T145)	...	...	...	...	636

Special Forms of Treatment. The Tuberculosis Officer gave the following special forms of treatment at the Dispensary during the year :—

Artificial Pneumothorax refills	...	...	...	186
Injections of Tuberculin	...	...	...	787

Laryngeal Clinic. This clinic was held by Mr. R. Howarth once a fortnight, but since the beginning of the year Mr. Howarth has joined His Majesty's Forces. Mr. C. Prance has undertaken his duties, and is holding the clinic once a month. Treatment was given to 66 patients.

X-ray. The number of X-ray examinations made during the year amounted to 2941. The following table shews the number of examination made each year since 1932 :—

1932	...	...	...	...	2,543
1933	...	...	...	...	2,792
1934	...	...	...	...	2,737
1935	...	...	...	...	2,824
1936	...	...	...	...	3,005
1937	...	...	...	...	2,956
1938	...	...	...	...	3,344
1939	...	...	...	...	3,381
1940	...	...	...	...	3,617
1941	...	...	...	...	2,941

Bacteriological Work. The number of specimens of sputa, etc., which were tested during the year amounted to 762. The following table shews the number of specimens of sputa sent for examination since 1932 :—

1932	...	...	...	...	...	1,150
1933	...	...	...	...	...	1,011
1934	...	...	...	...	...	1,314
1935	...	...	...	...	...	1,334
1936	...	...	...	...	...	1,444
1937	...	...	...	...	...	1,567
1938	...	...	...	...	...	1,370
1939	...	...	...	...	...	1,259
1940	...	...	...	...	...	1,210
1941	...	...	...	...	...	762

Institutional Treatment. Owing to a reduction in the number of beds at Mount Gold Hospital, for Pulmonary cases, due to war conditions, there has been a greater demand for beds at Didworthy. To cope with this demand, a further block to take 24 patients has been erected, and additional beds have been temporarily utilised in other buildings to bring the total bed state of Didworthy up to 140.

Voluntary Organisations. *Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Committee.* This organisation continues to work under the aegis of the Public Health Committee, with the Medical Officer of Health and the Tuberculosis Officer as Honorary Medical Officers, the City Treasurer as Honorary Treasurer, and the Head Clerk of the Tuberculosis Dispensary as Secretary.

Assistance was given to 291 cases during the year. Thanks are due to the efforts of the members of this Committee, other organisations and sympathisers, and to the support of the general public.

Council of Social Service. This organisation, working in co-operation with this Department, continues to render valuable assistance which is much appreciated.

MOUNT GOLD TUBERCULOSIS AND ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.

REPORT OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

General. The normal work of the Hospital has continued, but the admissions of Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients have decreased, and the duration of stay in Hospital of Orthopaedic cases has shortened as a number of patients have been transferred to hospitals outside Plymouth.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Section

	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Admissions	91	93	151	156	127
Discharges	37	89	127	94	44
Deaths	29	45	50	55	60

In 19 cases sufficient improvement took place to warrant their transfer to Didworthy Sanatorium. Three patients received treatment by aurotherapy. Forty-five X-ray and 136 pathological examinations were made.

Of the 29 deaths which occurred, 6 died within the first week of admission, 2 during the second week and 5 during the third and fourth weeks. From these figures it will be seen that 13 (45 per cent.) of the deaths occurred within the first four weeks in Hospital.

Orthopaedic Section.

Admissions for the past five years are shown in the following table:—

<i>Plymouth Cases.</i>	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Tuberculosis Department ...	61	47	44	39	36
M. & C.W. Department ...	5	6	9	18	25
School Medical Department...	12	12	21	28	20
Other Plymouth Cases ...	78	47	90	83	76
Total Plymouth Cases ...	156	112	164	168	157

<i>Non-Plymouth Cases.</i>	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Devon County Council ...	22	38	48	39	42
Cornwall County Council	7	5	9	18	13
Exeter City	—	1	2	4	4
Devonian Association for Cripples' Aid	4	22	43	35	36
Other Cases	1	22	56	50	59
Total Non-Plymouth Cases	34	88	158	146	154
E.M.S. Cases	27	—	—	—	—
Grand Total of Admissions ...	217	200	322	314	311
Total Discharges	230	245	332	305	297

Classification of cases admitted during the last five years :—

	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
1. Tuberculosis of Bones ...	93	138	79	72	85
2. After results of Anterior Poliomyelitis	9	9	7	12	11
3. Deformities—congenital and acquired	19	33	63	64	70
4. After results of injuries ...	34	57	51	50	49
5. Chronic Non-T.B. Arthritis	20	34	48	50	43
6. Chronic and Acute Non- T.B. Osteomyelitis ...	7	16	11	10	5
7. Rickets	5	7	7	15	—
8. Diseases and injuries of the Peripheral Nerve and Spinal Cord	2	1	5	6	—
9. Other conditions	30	32	56	35	29

Out-Patient Department.	Number of initial examinations by the Surgeon	137
	Number of subsequent examinations by the Surgeon ...	602
	Total number of cases treated by the Massage Department Staff	255
	Number of X-ray films used	593

**Orthopaedic
Hospital School.** The School was opened on 428 occasions, the average attendance being 16.

DIDWORTHY SANATORIUM.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Total beds available (January, 1941), 100 ; 50 for men, 42 for women and 8 for girls. (December, 1941), 118 ; 70 for men, 40 for women and 8 for girls.

Admissions. The total number of admissions for the year was 105. Sixty-five men, 37 women and 3 girls, of whom 102 were sent by the City of Plymouth, 2 women by the County of Cornwall and 1 woman by the County of Devon.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR WAS 198.

Bed Occupation. The total number of patient days for the year was 37,594. An average struck over the whole year shows the average bed occupation to have been 103 days. The average length of stay of cases discharged during the year was 285.92 days.

The total number of bed patient days was 17,322 which represents 46.07 patients in bed daily of the total number of cases treated.

Increased Bed State During the year, in order to limit the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis treated at Mount Gold Hospital, we have converted the Chapel and the Schoolroom into wards for male patients.

This has given us an increase of 18 beds and we have also erected 6 huts transferred from Mount Gold Hospital to give extra accommodation for women patients.

A new block is being erected on the women's lawn which will accommodate 24 women.

This block should be completed by February, 1942.

The total number of beds at Didworthy will then be 140.

The City General Hospital

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

The following table summarises certain statistics of a general nature on the work of the City Hospital :—

(1)	Total number of admissions, including infants born in Hospital	...	...	...	...	2414
(2)	Number of discharges	...	...	...	...	2281
(3)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	368
(4)	Patients treated to a conclusion	...	...	...	...	2649
(5)	Duration of stay of patients treated to a conclusion :					
	(a) Under four weeks	...	...	...	...	2018
	(b) Over four weeks and under thirteen weeks	...	...	...	...	424
	(c) Thirteen weeks or more	...	...	...	...	207
(6)	In-patient days	...	...	...	...	62,297
(7)	Average duration of stay	...	...	...	...	25.8 days
(8)	Number of available beds	...	...	...	...	—
(9)	Number of beds occupied :					
	(a) Average	...	...	...	...	163
	(b) Highest—on 1/1/41	...	...	...	...	400
	(c) Lowest—on 23/3/41	...	...	...	...	57
(10)	Number of women confined in Hospital	...	...	...	...	222
(11)	Number of live births	...	...	...	...	208
(12)	Number of stillbirths	...	...	...	...	17
(13)	Deaths of newly born (under 4 weeks)	...	...	...	...	12
(14)	Number of maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	2
(15)	Number of surgical operations	...	...	...	...	880
(16)	Number of X-ray investigations	...	...	...	...	1470
(17)	Number of pathological investigations	...	...	...	...	2556
(18)	Number of patients treated in Dental Dept.	...	...	...	...	45

**General
Comments**

The last week of 1940 and the first few months of 1941 saw considerable damage to the hospital by enemy action. The sick children and nursing infants were twice bombed from their wards ; on the second occasion the ward received extensive damage from a disastrous direct hit with unfortunate loss of life among patients and staff. The new Maternity Block was badly damaged on the same occasion by direct hits ; some patients and staff were lost, but fortunately the death roll in this ward was not unduly high having regard to the damage. The block had not at this time come fully into use and was not, in fact, quite completed. Its premature use had been precipitated by the necessity of utilizing the previous maternity ward for the sick children when they had been bombed from their own ward on an earlier occasion.

There was very little of the hospital that did not receive severe injury ; fortunately this portion included the Operating Theatre—which is such a key structure that for the treatment of air raid injuries a hospital without its Theatre is of no value.

It is of interest to appreciate how such difficulties were overcome so that night after night, on every occasion of the attacks on Plymouth, the hospital continued to render its services to the sick and wounded, and despite its own severe damage, managed also to accommodate temporarily on one occasion the inmates of a Plymouth Institution which had suffered most grievously.

The incidents themselves brought out the highest standard of courage and devotion on the part of the staff, in the rescue of patients and their treatment under adverse conditions, as well as in the active defence measures of dealing with incendiary bombs (of which over forty were extinguished without recourse to the Fire Fighting Services), and of maintaining a high level of morale in the patients.

Many re-adjustments in provisioning and feeding were necessary. Large quantities of stores had to be found new space as the buildings that had housed them were, for the most part destroyed.

For weeks the small fireplaces in the side wards served to cook the patients potatoes ; for weeks much of the main hospital cooking was done on an open fire against the wall of the kitchen. Meals were prepared in a cold doorless Kitchen from which the rain could not be completely excluded, and under a ceiling from which portions were repeatedly becoming detached and falling.

Meals were taken by the staff in their overcoats in a Dining Room unable to be heated.

Throughout all their adversity the behaviour of all members of the hospital staff was exemplary ; they worked well and uncomplainingly, and adapted themselves to the changed conditions magnificently.

**Maternity
Department**

As a result of the damage much of the maternity work has been transferred to Flete which we were fortunate enough to obtain as a Ministry of Health Emergency Maternity Home ; Lord Mildmay was of extreme assistance in allowing its early occupation and rapid conversion.

Flete accommodates 23 lying-in cases and 20 expectant mothers, who spend there from two to four weeks prior to confinement.

The first confinement took place on the 14th July, 1941 and 125 mothers were confined before 31st December, 1941

A few beds of the damaged maternity section have been brought into use, but they are not adequate for the needs of the City. The Ante-Natal Department at the hospital is in considerable use though still not finally completed.

**Nursery for
Healthy Children**

The healthy children have been transferred to Warleigh House, Tamerton Foliot. This was " secured " one afternoon at 5 p.m., two days after the destruction of the Nursery, and was in use the same evening ; it has therefore had to be adapted during occupation, obviously an infinitely more difficult task than would have been the case had it been possible to wait for a complete conversion prior to its opening.

At first it was used for children up to the age of 5 or 6 years, but since other accommodation has become available, it is now in use mainly for children under two years, with a few up to 3 years. A similar home for " long stay " cases is in occupation at Canonteign, near Chudleigh.

Accommodation In consequence of the accommodation lost by damage, and that which especial danger has placed out of use, the available beds have now been reduced to 337, including the special departments. Of these a proportion are reserved for the emergencies of war ; the rest are in very full occupation.

Problem of the Aged and Infirm Throughout the Country there is a shortage of accommodation for the aged who are also infirm, and need attention. Before the war the accommodation at the City Hospital was inadequate for the demands, and such patients were encroaching on the accommodation required for acute work. Despite "evacuations" from Plymouth, the position is again acute. This is partly the result of the war, in that with so many of our women on whole-time war work or service, there is no younger relative, daughter, daughter-in-law or neighbour able and willing to give the aged person the attention needed. There has thus arisen an acute stage in what was a developing tendency before the war; the rendering available of good nursing and medical care in hospitals such as this lessened the distaste of the aged for removal to such a hospital, and hence relieved the burden of their sons and daughters and younger relatives.

Before the war one-third of all the deaths in Plymouth of men and women over 70 years took place in the City Hospital. The problem is now serious and must become more so. There is much chronic sickness in the older age groups and this problem also is an ever increasing one, which demands early attention.

The present accommodation which can be made available is not only extremely inadequate, it is also of poor quality. It was considered unsuitable years ago, and was due to be rebuilt a course which the war forbade; the delay can only mean that the accommodation must become steadily less satisfactory.

Nurses' Training School The Nurses Training School had a very good record during the year and the following results were obtained.

(A) STATE REGISTRATION EXAMINATION.

					<i>Entered.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Re-entries.</i>
Preliminary ...	...	...	...	...	26	26	6
Final ...	...	...	...	...	12	10	1

(B) CERTIFICATE OF THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD. PART I.

	<i>Entered.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Re-entries.</i>
	16	16	—

CLASSIFICATION OF IN-PATIENTS TREATED TO A
CONCLUSION IN THE INSTITUTION DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

<i>Disease Groups.</i>	<i>Children (under 16 Years of Age).</i>		<i>Men and Women</i>	
	<i>Dis- charged.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Dis- charged.</i>	<i>Died.</i>
Acute infectious disease ...	8	1	2	—
Influenza	3	—	1	—
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary	2	—	25	9
Non-pulmonary ...	4	1	5	1
Rheumatism—				
(1) Acute rheumatism (rheu- matic fever) together with sub - acute rheumatism and chorea	13	—	6	—
(2) Non-articular manifesta- tions of so-called "rheu- matism" (muscular rheumatism, fibrositis, and sciatica)	—	—	1	—
(3) Chronic arthritis ...	—	—	3	—
Venereal disease	—	—	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia, including cases classified (in London) as puerperal fever—				
(a) Women confined in the hospital	—	—	9	—
(b) Other cases	—	—	15	—
Other diseases and accidents connected with pregnancy and childbirth	3	8	85	4
Mental diseases—				
(a) Senile Dementia ...	—	—	3	1
(b) Other	—	—	1	1
Senile decay	—	—	223	1
Accidental injury and vio- lence	12	1	49	2
In respect of cases not in- cluded above:—				
Disease of the Nervous Sys- tem and Sense Organs ...	22	—	67	31
Disease of the Respiratory System	38	28	120	62
Disease of the Circulatory System	5	—	172	97
Disease of the Digestive Sys- tem	39	20	266	18
Disease of the Genito-urinary System	11	—	168	33
Disease of the Skin ...	46	—	140	—
Other diseases	9	—	28	—
Mothers and infants dis- charged from the Maternity Wards and not included in above figures—				
Mothers	—	—	262	2
Infants	209	—	—	—
Any persons not falling under any of the above headings				
Nursery	88	—	—	—
Tonsils and Adenoids	72	—	7	—
Malignant disease ...	—	1	36	46
TOTALS ...	584	60	1697	308

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Patients remaining in hospital—1st Jan., 1941	...	...	...	...	...	397
Patients admitted	...	...	...	...	...	2206
Births	...	...	...	...	...	208
						2811
Patients discharged	...	...	...	...	...	2281
Patients died	...	...	...	...	...	368
						2649
Patients treated to a conclusion	...	...	...	...	...	162
Patients remaining in hospital—31st Dec., 1941	...	...	...	...	...	162

ADMISSIONS—AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTIONS.

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Births	...	...	112	96	208
Under 1 year	...	...	70	62	132
1-3 years	...	...	69	42	111
3-5 years	...	...	32	27	59
5-11 years	...	...	59	63	122
11-16 years	...	...	34	35	69
Adults	...	...	655	1056	1708
			1031	1383	2414

Of the 1984 patients admitted for treatment during the year (excluding maternity cases and births) 493 were under the age of 16 years (24.8 per cent.) and 424 were under the age of 11 years (21.37 per cent.).

ANALYSIS OF WORK OF DEPARTMENTS.

General.

The inset table gives details of the work of all the departments of the hospital in the form of a all patients treated to a conclusion.

Surgery and Anaesthetics.

OPERATIONS IN MAIN THEATRE:

Abdominal	...	...	...	...	119
Genito-Urinary	...	...	...	...	152
Gynæcological	...	...	...	...	93
Ear, Nose and Throat	...	...	...	...	93
Maternity (including Cæsarean Sections)					22
Others	...	...	...	...	404
Anæsthetics	...	...	...	...	770

Maternity.	Number of available beds	(31/12/41)	5
	Number of patients admitted	... ..	223
	Number of cases delivered by :		
	(a) Midwives	... ..	187
	(b) Doctors	... ..	35
		(died undelivered)	1

(A) ANTE-NATAL DEPARTMENT.

Number of sessions	...	...	...	87
Number of attendances	...	...	...	2149
Average number of attendances per session				24.6
Number of expectant mothers seen			...	419
Average number of attendances made by each	...	...	...	4.8
Referred for radiological examination			...	45
Referred to Consultant Obstetrical Clinic				35
Referred to V.D. Clinic	...	...	...	1

Consulting Obstetrical Clinic:

New Cases	...	...	...	35
Total attendances	...	...	...	55

Post Natal Clinic:

Cases Seen ...	...	...	...	62
Attendances	...	...	...	63

(B) IN-PATIENT DEPARTMENT.

(1) Mothers :

One mother died undelivered.
222 mothers gave birth to 225 children.
(There were 3 cases of twin birth).

How Admitted :

Through Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	148
Emergency	...	...	75

Parous State :

Primipara	...	...	120
Multipara	...	...	103

Presentations :

Vertex	...	...	209
Breech—Uncomplicated	...	...	7
„ Complicated	...	...	5
B.B.A.	...	...	4

(2) Obstetrical Operations :

Instrumental deliveries	...	...	11
Surgical inductions of labour	...	...	14
Cæsarean Section	...	...	21
External Version	...	...	3
Internal Version	...	...	1

(3) Maternal Deaths 2

Whether admitted to A.N. Clinic	Mode of delivery	Maternal Complications	Number of Cases
No.	Cæsarean section	Hæmorrhage	1
No.	Undelivered	Ruptured uterus	1

(4) Pyrexial Cases.

Nine cases delivered in the hospital were pyrexial (Ministry of Health standard).

(5) *Infants.*

Births	...	...	...	...	225
Premature	...	...	...	...	34
Mature	...	...	...	...	191

Survival :—

Born and survived	...	...	...	197
Born and died (within 4 weeks)	...			12
„ „ „ (within 10 days)	...			10
Stillbirths	...	...	...	17

Of 225 children born, 12 died and 17 were stillborn= 12.22% ;
of 208 infants born alive, 12 died= 5.37% .

(6) *Causes of Neonatal Deaths (within 10 days)*

Atelactasis	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	5
Dystocia	...	...	...	...	1
A.P.H.	...	...	...	...	1
Intestinal atresia	...	...	...	...	1

ANNUAL PATIENT STATISTICS.

	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/39	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/40	<i>Year ending</i> 31/12/41
Admissions	3549	3252	2206
Births	437	575	208
	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3986	3727	2414
Discharges	3591	3024	2281
Deaths	576	630	368
	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4167	3654	2649
Patient days	158,139	120,126	62,297
Daily average Beds occupied	417	346	163
Highest Number ...	548	421	400
Lowest Number ...	229	253	57
Average stay	37.9 days	34.6 days	25.8 days

Port Health Department.

REPORT OF SENIOR ASSISTANT PORT MEDICAL OFFICER.

The work of the Port Health Authority Staff has been very much reduced and 75 per cent. of the staff are either on active service or engaged on other duties.

Routine sanitary inspection of vessels is still carried on and the services of a Doctor are available at all times for the Medical Inspection of aliens or refugees and attendance for cases of suspected infectious disease or injured seamen arriving at the port.

While no information relating to the numbers of ships or passengers arriving at the port may be disclosed, the following tables are available :—

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Disease Landed from Vessels

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Cases during 1941</i>	
	<i>Passengers.</i>	<i>Crew.</i>
V.D.	—	4
Scarlet Fever.	—	1
Scabies	—	36
TOTAL	—	41

A Scabies clinic has been established for the treatment of seamen suffering from this condition and routine disinfestation of bedding carried out.

TABLE E.

Rats destroyed during 1941.

1. On Vessels.

<i>Number of :—</i>	<i>Total for Year.</i>
Rats destroyed	52
Rats examined	2
Rats infected with plague	—

TABLE F.

2. In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

<i>Number of</i>	<i>Total for Year.</i>
Rats destroyed	1092
Rats examined	6
Rats infected with Plague	—

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year 1941.

No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued					No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates	Total Certificates Issued
After fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning etc.	Total		
H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur				
1	—	—	—	1	7	8

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

<i>Nationality of Vessels</i>	<i>Number inspected during the year</i>	<i>Defects of original construction</i>	<i>Structural defects through wear and tear</i>	<i>Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health</i>
British	—	1	7	15
Other Nations ...	—	2	5	29

Food inspection has been dealt with under the Health Department's general scheme for the City.

It has been necessary to renew notices prohibiting the sale of shell-fish gathered from prohibited beaches, but the Yealm Oyster Fisheries Cleansing Station continues to give satisfactory results.

School Medical Service

REPORT OF THE SENIOR ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

The School Medical Service worked under considerable difficulties throughout the year. Most of these were due to enemy action which caused interruptions of the Public Utility Services, destruction of the School Medical Department Offices with all records, as well as the Central Clinic, a branch clinic, and some schools, and resulted in the evacuation of many of the children.

Staff

There were reductions in the strength of the Medical and Dental staff during the year. Of the four Medical Officers, one was seconded for duty with Devon County Council from June and another called up for military service in December, leaving two Medical Officers giving time equivalent to one and a half full-time Officers at the end of the year. In January, 1942, however, the Medical Officer seconded to Devon was recalled, giving a staff of three Medical Officers engaged on school medical work.

The staff of four Dental Surgeons was also reduced to two, the services of one being dispensed with in June and another resigning in August, whilst the staff of four Dental Attendants was similarly reduced to two. There was no alteration in the staff of ten nurses, but one of the three Orthopædic Masseuses was seconded for duty at Mount Gold Orthopædic Hospital from September.

Medical and Dental Inspection and Treatment

Because of the difficulties mentioned above, and alteration in staff, it was only possible to give a restricted medical service on the lines suggested in the Board of Education Circulars, 1523 and 1559. All entrants received a full routine medical inspection and all other children a full survey by a Medical Officer, the survey including an estimation of nutrition, and an inspection for orthopædic defects, and defects of the ear, nose and throat, the children being stripped as for a routine examination but no detailed examination being made except in the case of ailing or defective children. In addition considerable time was spent by the Medical Officers in the examination of children before evacuation.

Extra duties were, however, given to the Nurses who tested, in the schools, the vision of every child during the year, referring all children with defective vision to the Medical Officers at the Clinics.

The Nurses also made a routine cleanliness examination of every child each month as far as possible and re-examined every dirty child each week, referring any children found with defects to the Medical Officers at the Clinics. Extra visiting was also done in connection with children sleeping in air raid shelters, orphans notified by the Ministry of Pensions, in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation, and in all cases where meals recommended by the School Medical Officers had been refused. Nurses also attended to supervise the baths given to children at the schools by the Mobile Bath Unit, examining each child for cleanliness, etc., before the bath.

The number of Medical Officers' sessions at the Clinics was reduced from 15 to 8 a week, but the Nurses' minor ailment Clinics were continued as previously, one at each Clinic every day. The number of Specialist Officers' sessions was also reduced in accordance with the numbers of children referred by the School Medical Officers.

It was only found possible to give a restricted Dental Service on the lines suggested in Circulars 1523 and 1559, all children receiving a routine dental inspection and non-conservative treatment as far as possible, the remainder of the Dental Surgeon's time being spent on conservative treatment.

The arrangements for routine medical and dental inspections were, however, difficult to carry out on account of the variations in the number of children in the City from roughly 25,000 in January to under 9,000 in June, rising to over 12,000 in December.

Welfare of the Children

Rather surprisingly, the war does not appear to have had any harmful effect on the mental welfare of the children, and only one case of shock as a result of enemy action has come to the notice of the School Medical Department.

Whilst the figures for nutrition show a very considerable difference from those of recent years, the actual nutrition of the children does not seem to have undergone any appreciable change. The difference in the figures is due to an alteration in the standards adopted by the Medical Officers in assessing nutrition consequent on the special interest given to it, following the adoption by the authority of Section 84 of the Education Act. Children whose nutrition was only slightly subnormal, however slight, were classified as C1, and those whose nutrition was definitely subnormal, but not bad, were classified as C 2, whereas in previous years almost all the C1 children had been included among the B cases. The alteration in the standard also resulted in a smaller number of children assessed as A and a larger number as D.

All the C1 cases were recommended for two-thirds of a pint of milk at school, and all the C2 and D cases for meals at school in addition.

There was a considerable increase in the number of cases of Scabies and verminous conditions discovered and in the numbers treated and cleansed at the Clinics, but it is impossible to give accurate figures or to compare the increase with previous years owing to the destruction of records and the fluctuations in the school population. The use of the powers given in the Scabies Order, 1941, is already proving helpful in reducing the amount of re-infestation from adults and children under school age.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases were reduced to almost negligible proportions compared with previous years, and another campaign of Diphtheria Immunisation was carried out in the last few months of the year, when every child at school who had not been Immunised was given an Immunisation Consent Form to take home, the forms being distributed and collected by the Teachers. All refusals were then visited by the Nurses at their homes. The Immunisations were done mainly at schools, but some were done in the Immunisation Clinics of the Public Health Department.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

(1)	No. of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—						
	Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	1637
	Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	329
	Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
							<hr/>
					Total	...	1966
							<hr/>
(2)	No. of other Routine Inspections						Nil.
					Grand Total	...	1966
							<hr/>

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	15,466
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TABLE II.
CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE
GROUPS.

Number of Children Inspected.	A. (Excellent).		B. (Normal).		C. (Slightly Sub-Normal).		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1966	98	4.96	1291	65.67	574	29.20	3	0.15

TABLE III.*

GROUP I. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleaniness).
Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment

during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 2465

GROUP II. Treatment Defective Vision and Squint.

*Under the
Authority's
Scheme.*

ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including Squint) ... 1002

Other defect or disease of the Eyes (excluding those
recorded in Group I.) ... 295

Total ... 1297

*Under the
Authority's
Scheme.*

Number of Children for whom Spectacles were :—

(a) Prescribed ... 360

(b) Obtained ... 278

GROUP III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment ... 39

Received other forms of Treatment ... 49

Total number treated ... 88

* For the present the Board are not asking for information regarding treatment carried out apart from the Authority's Scheme.

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist :—

(a) Routine Age Groups.

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 & over	Total
No.	239	391	402	396	431	398	332	186	178	105	3,058

(b) Specials 371

(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) 3429

(2) Number found to require treatment 2557

(3) Number actually treated 1437

(4) Attendances made by children for treatemnt 4174

(5) Half-days devoted to—

Inspection 37

Treatment 1020

TOTAL 1057

(6) Fillings—

Permanent Teeth 2795

Temporary Teeth 54

TOTAL 2849

(7) Extractions—

Permanent Teeth 798

Temporary Teeth 2634

TOTAL 3432

(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions 1030

(9) Other Operations—

Permanent Teeth 702

Temporary Teeth 51

TOTAL 753

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	10.5
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	52,636
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean ...	1686
(iv) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	Nil

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally Blind and Deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return relates to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

	1. At a Public Elementary School	2. At an Institu- tion other than a Special School	3. At no School or Institution
Blind Children	—	—	3 { 1. Unfit for any school on account of severe heart disease.
Deaf Children	—	—	— { 2. Waiting for ad- mission to Residen- tial School.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, by the Local Education Authority, to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 26

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